

Zoom In...a closer look at revision

Michelle Draves
FVWP Summer Institute
June 15, 2011



Learning Targets

Teacher Participants will

- Explore the concept of revision and examine their own understanding
- Briefly survey various revision techniques
- Learn a simple technique for incorporating "snapshots" in the revision process

Student Participants will

- Learn to zoom in on one idea and add details to create a written "snapshot" (a picture that will stay in the reader's mind)
- Identify possible snapshot moments from a supplied writing sample
- Work together to write a snapshot using details generated through group brainstorming

Future Learning Goals

Students will

- Demonstrate understanding of the revision strategy by adding snapshot moments in personal writing
- In the context of shared and personal reading, recognize snapshot moments written by other authors

Key Quote...

"Writers are like photographers with giant zoom lenses, observing life in incredibly fine detail, pulling back to make sweeping generalizations, then zooming in again to make those generalizations come alive with detail..."

Barry Lane

More thoughts on revision...

"When I was in school I thought details were just extra words to add in a story to make it better. I thought detail was decoration or wallpaper, syrupy adjectives that stuck to nouns, adverbs that propped up flabby verbs...Details are not wallpaper; they are walls. When I describe a room I don't describe it; I build it. I create it."

Barry Lane

"Revision means, literally, to see again. Revision is when we revisit, revalue, reconsider, and look again at our writing...Revision takes place even when we're not writing; it's part of our thinking process around writing."

Regie Routman

"When the author slows down and goes under the surface, delving into specifics, the effect is startling."

Ralph Fletcher

References

Fletcher, R. (1993). *What a writer needs*. Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann.

Fletcher, R. & Portalupi, J. (1998). *Craft lessons: Teaching writing k-8*. Portland, ME. Stenhouse Publishers.

Fletcher, R. & Portalupi, J. (2001). *Writing Workshop: The essential guide*. Portsmouth, NH. Heinemann.

Graves, D. & Kittle, P. (2005). *Inside writing: How to teach the details of craft*. Portsmouth, NH. Heinemann.

Lane, B. (1993). *After the end: Teaching and learning creative revision*. Portsmouth, NH. Heinemann.

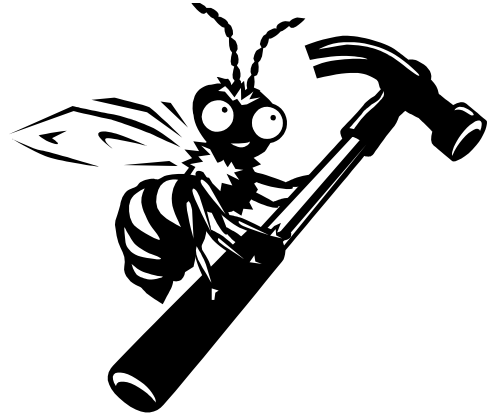
Lane, B. (1999). *Reviser's toolbox*. Shoreham, VT. Discover Writing Press.

Routman, R. (2005). *Writing essentials*. Portsmouth, NH. Heinemann.

Spandel, V. (2001). *Creating writers through 6-trait writing assessment and instruction*. New York, NY. Addison, Wesley, Longman, Inc.

Revision Tools

- Read your piece out loud
- Ask questions
- Try a different lead
- Experiment with endings
- Change your point of view
- Zoom in
- Add or omit dialogue
- Try a different genre (ie: change a story into a poem)
- Take out things that go off topic/don't make sense
- Snapshot (show it with the senses)
- Thoughtshot (go inside heads)
- Explode the moment
- Slow down or speed up time
- Make scenes (snapshots + thoughtshots + dialogue)



Adapted from The Reviser's Toolbox

Barry Lane